

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending in the present application.

In order to address the prior art rejections set forth in the Office Action mailed on June 29, 2005, discussed below, the specification of the present application has been amended to add a claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to a prior string of applications filed by applicant. Since this claim for priority is not made within the later four months from the actual filing of the present application or sixteen months from the filing date of the earliest of the prior applications on which priority is sought, a petition for an unintentionally delayed claim for priority accompanies this Amendment.

Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Frederick, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0198048. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Frederick in view of Gibboney, U.S. Patent No. 6,344,716.

Claim 1 of the present application reads as follows:

1. A series-wired light string that operates on DC current, comprising:

a plurality of light bulbs;

a plurality of light sockets, each light socket of said plurality of light sockets adapted to receive at least one light bulb of said plurality of light bulbs;

a plurality of voltage-responsive shunts, each shunt being electrically connected in parallel across a respective light socket to maintain the current passing through the light socket in the event that a light bulb is not illuminated or is missing from the light socket; and

a rectifier for rectifying an AC supply voltage for DC operation of said series-wired light string.

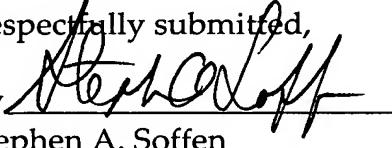
Claim 1 is fully supported by, and entitled to, the benefit of the filing dates of the string of patent applications set forth in the first paragraph of the present application (added by the present amendment) which date back well prior to the earliest effective filing date of the cited Frederick application. See, e.g., Fig. 3 of U.S. Patent No. 6,580,182, which contains the same disclosure as parent Application Serial No. 08/653,979, filed May 28, 1996. Accordingly, Frederick is not prior art to claim 1 of the present application, as amended. The rejection of claims 1-3 as anticipated by Frederick, and the rejection of dependent claim 4, as obvious over Frederick in view of Gibboney, should therefore be withdrawn.

In accordance with the duty of disclosure set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, applicant hereby brings to the attention of the Examiner the existence of co-pending U.S. Application Serial No. 10/891,094, filed July 15, 2004, which is a continuation of the same string of patents to which the present application is a CIP.

In view of the foregoing, applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance, and such action is earnest solicited.

Dated: September 29, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Stephen A. Soffen

Registration No.: 31,063
DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &
OSHINSKY LLP
2101 L Street NW
Washington, DC 20037-1526
(202) 785-9700
Attorney for Applicant